

Addendum 5 **THE FOSS FAMILY**

Mrs Olga B. Crellin  
822 Pacific Avenue  
Venice, California 90291  
January 9, 1970.

Mr Ger Westenberg  
Galjoenstraat 51  
Zaandam, Netherlands

Dear Mr Westenberg:

I am Olga Borsum Crellin, Mrs Heindel's niece, and I live at 822 Pacific Avenue, Venice, California.

Augusta Foss Heindel was born in Mansfield, Ohio, on January 27, 1865, at 8:35 P.M. She married Max Heindel on August 10, 1910. She died May 9, 1949 in Oceanside. She was the daughter of William and Anna Richt Foss. She had five sisters and one brother. They were:

Anna Marie (born May 24, 1857, died January 16, 1859)

Henriette Foss Knoth (born March 8, 1859, died  
October 20, 1914)

Catherine Foss Borsum (born January 19, 1861,  
died January 30, 1949)

Anna Magdeline Foss (born September 21, 1862,  
died June 14, 1946)

John Henry Foss (born July 8, 1867, died August  
2, 1933)

Louisa Foss Brockway (born November 28, 1869,  
died June 19, 1946).

All were born in Mansfield, Ohio. They moved to California in the 1880's. Mrs Heindel's father came from Morgendorf,<sup>310</sup> Nassau, Germany. He was born March 6, 1831 and died January 18, 1896, in Los Angeles. He came to America when he was twenty-two years old in 1853. His name was originally spelled Voß. Her mother was born Anna Marie Richt in Neuwied<sup>311</sup>, Germany, on June 4, 1827. She died in Los Angeles on May 2, 1912. She married William Foss on July 6, 1855.

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<sup>310</sup> Mogendorf near Koblenz 50:29 n.l., 7.46.30 e.l. Nassau near Koblenz 50.18 n.l., 7.49 e.l. (Koblenz is situated 50.21 n.l., 7.36 e.l.).

<sup>311</sup> Neuwied, near Koblenz 50.26 n.l., 7.28 e.l.

Anna Foss died in Los Angeles, Henriette Knoth and Henry Foss in Santa Monica, Augusta Heindel in Oceanside, Catherine Borsum in Venice, and Louisa Brockway in Los Angeles. The first Anna Marie died as an infant in Mansfield, Ohio.

The family home was at 315 South Bunker Hill Avenue in Los Angeles, California. William and Anna lived there until their deaths, as did their daughter, Anna Magdaline. A photograph and painting of the home are reproduced, along with some brief Descriptive material, in Leo Politi's Bunker Hill Los Angeles; reminiscences of bygone days, published by Desert-Southwest, Inc. in 1964. A second printing of this book in May 1965 has a corrected text for the descriptive material on the William Foss home.

I hope this has been of some help to you.

Sincerely

OBC/dc (w.s) *Olga Borsum Crellin*

A clipping from *Town and Country Review*, [date unknown] "Biographical Sketches-continued," [date unknown]: "Life of Augusta Foss Heindel (Mrs Max Heindel)" from the archive of Mr Harry Gelbfarb. The Oceanside Public Library informed the writer on April 4, 2007 that they do not possess this paper, however that the New York Public Library has it on microfilm.

"Twelve miles south of the city of Mansfield, Ohio, an old deserted log cabin stood vacant for a number of years. This cabin was in the midst of an old apple orchard, on an out-of-the-way farm. No one would rent or buy the farm because the house was supposed to be haunted. In the years 1860 a courageous couple bought the farm. William Foss and his wife, Anna Marie Right, with their three small children had no fear of ghosts. Ill-health had caused this city bred man to try farming as a vocation. It proved quite a task for two inexperienced people to shoulder this responsibility, for the year following the Civil War started with its high prices and drawbacks. The husband, in order to help keep the wolf from the door, spent much of the time in a nearby blacksmith shop, and was also gone from home sometimes for days at a time in response to his profession as a Veterinary Surgeon, leaving the persevering and energetic wife alone to struggle on the farm. Anna Marie Foss never complained of her surroundings. She saw beauty in everything. When her long day's work was done she spent her lonely evenings sitting out of doors study-

ing the stars, or reading the only book she possessed, the Bible, by the light of a homemade candle. There seemed to be a mysterious message in the book and in the stars for her.

“On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1865, her fourth daughter was born. Augusta Foss came to this little family as a ray of sunshine; always happy, healthy and sweet natured. She was a strange child, this daughter, born under these conditions—and she grew up with a strange longing to delve into the mysteries of life and being. She excelled in all her classes in school. And her father, who was a German by birth, decided his daughter was too bright and too interested in her books, which he thought would interfere with her being a practical housewife. So at the age of fourteen, he had his daughter leave school to help the mother cook and keep house. At the age of twenty, the father’s health broke down, which necessitated the family’s moving to California.

“In California life opened up to the daughter, who entered the business world in order to support herself and her parents.

“She was employed as a saleslady during the day, and she devoted her evenings to the study of humanity. Why are we here? From whence did we come? and whither are we going? were her constant thoughts.

“She was led in her investigation, to join a group of Hermetists through which she became interested in the science of Astrology and Theosophy.

“Augusta Foss Heindel has been active in civic work in Oceanside, California, where she has resided since 1911. She has been a member of the City Planning Commission; Past President of the Beautification Club; Honorary life member of the Business and Professional Women’s Club; League of Western Writers; Peter Pan Woodland Club; and has contributed numerous articles to astrological and occult magazines.”